

Agenda Item

File ID: 2022-1764

Substitute

12/20/2022

Public Hearing: YES NO

Department: Board of Commissioners - District 7

SUBJECT:

Commission District(s): District 7

A Resolution of the Governing Authority of DeKalb County, Georgia to Acknowledge Gun Violence as a Public Health Crisis and to Call upon Federal, State and Local Legislators and Elected Officials to Pass Common Sense Gun Control Legislation to Reduce Gun Violence, Homicides and Mass Murders.

Information Contact: Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, District 7 Commissioner

Phone Number: 404-371-2899

PURPOSE:

To adopt a resolution requesting the Governing Authority of DeKalb County to acknowledge gun violence as a public health crisis and to call upon Federal, state and local legislators and elected officials to pass common sense gun control legislation to reduce gun violence, homicides and mass murders.

NEED/IMPACT:

A resolution requesting the Governing Authority of DeKalb County to acknowledge gun violence as a public health crisis and to call upon Federal, state and local legislators and elected officials to pass common sense gun control legislation to reduce gun violence, homicides and mass murders

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

To approve the resolution and authorize the chief executive officer to execute all necessary documents.

RESOLUTION

**A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF DEKALB COUNTY,
GEORGIA TO ACKNOWLEDGE GUN VIOLENCE AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS
AND REQUESTING FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATORS TO ADOPT COMMON
SENSE GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE, HOMICIDES
AND MASS MURDERS**

WHEREAS, gun violence, homicides and mass murders are costly and important issues that have reached epidemic levels and gun violence is recognized as the leading cause of premature deaths in the United States; and

WHEREAS, every day, more than 110 Americans are killed with guns and more than 200 are shot and wounded, resulting in more than 38,000 deaths and nearly 85,000 injuries annually; and

WHEREAS, in America, mass shootings are becoming a common recurrence and over 245 have occurred already in 2022; since 2013, the number of mass shootings in the nation have increased by 65%; and

WHEREAS, DeKalb County recognizes a comprehensive approach to gun violence is necessary to address this growing crisis that includes the adoption of common-sense gun control legislation, the enforcement of laws that govern the criminal misuse of guns, and the expansion of research; and

WHEREAS, federal, state, and local level actions are necessary to expand education on gun violence through funding, such as community violence intervention programs; and

WHEREAS, the issue of gun violence is complex and deeply rooted in our culture, which is why a public health approach must be taken to ensure families and communities are safe; and

WHEREAS, DeKalb County urges the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to restore funding removed under the Dickey Amendment for firearms and gun violence prevention research; and

WHEREAS, data is critical for addressing gun violence and there is a need to expand the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) as it is the only state-based surveillance system that pools more than 600 unique elements of crimes, including homicides and suicides, across all age groups and provides valuable information on violent deaths and why they occurred; and

WHEREAS, to prevent gun violence, it is necessary to fund CDC research on the risk and protective factors of gun use and gun violence prevention, while funding research on evidence-based primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention and treatment initiatives for communities that are seriously impacted by the effects of gun violence; and,

WHEREAS, DeKalb County supports the development of evidence-based policy and prevention recommendations for gun use and ownership, including background checks and banning the sale, transfer, manufacturing and importation of assault weapons, at the state and federal levels; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Authority of DeKalb County, declares gun violence as a public health crisis because of homicides and other violent crimes throughout the United States and DeKalb County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Governing Authority of DeKalb County, Georgia, that the following is requested:

1. The State and Federal representatives support the adoption of common-sense gun control legislation, the enforcement of laws that govern the criminal misuse of guns, and the expansion of research related to gun violence; and
2. Funding removed under the Dickey Amendment for firearms and gun violence prevention research be restored to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and
3. The Executive Assistant or designee deliver a copy of this Resolution to each member of the Georgia General Assembly and each member of the United States Congress representing any portion of DeKalb County.

ADOPTED by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this ____ day of December, 2022.

ROBERT PATRICK
Presiding Officer
Board of Commissioners
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer, this ____ day of December, 2022.

MICHAEL L. THURMOND
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO SUBSTANCE:

BARBARA H. SANDERS-NORWOOD, CCC

County Clerk
Board of Commissioners and
Chief Executive Officer

ZACHARY L. WILLIAMS

Chief Operating Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

VIVIANE H. ERNSTES

County Attorney
DeKalb County, Georgia